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MONTANA OUTDOORS

Special
Photo Issue





MONTANA OUTDOORS

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Bitterroots: Phyllis Lefohn

Front cover: Donald M. Jones
Spruce (Franklin's) grouse

Inside front cover: Jan L. Wassink
Mink

Back cover: Brian Struble
Mountain goats

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Montana is an inspiring place in many ways. There is something about the state's wide-open spaces, mountains, blue sky, clean water, abundant wildlife, and our friendly yet independent people which generates meaningful responses from residents and visitors alike.

Some of the more lasting responses to Montana have come from our artists, in particular, writers. From the exploration journals of Lewis and Clark to the new cadre of writers of the West who are calling Montana "home," their fascination with our state has been shared with people around the world.

There is one Montana author who blazed the trail for these new writers now living and writing in the state: A.B. Guthrie, Jr. His novel, "The Big Sky," is THE classic story of the mountain-man era; his second major work, "The Way West," won the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Fiction.

In his autobiography, "The Blue Hen's Chick," Guthrie admits to a life-long love affair with Montana, especially the Rocky Mountain Front near his home in Teton County: "It was fine country to grow up in....There were trout in the creeks, wild ducks on the waters, prairie chickens in the buck brush, rabbits in the thickets, and all within a mile or two. Service berries ripened and, later on, chokecherries, to be eaten out of hand or picked for pies and syrups. There were swimming holes...wild flowers, birds' nests, skating places, hills for coasters...and everywhere was room."

These are fitting subjects for this special photo issue of Montana Outdoors, and the eloquent words of A.B. Guthrie, Jr. which join the photos express a deep and abiding concern for our state and the wild creatures which many of us share. We hope you enjoy this tribute to Montana's natural wonders.

Stan Stephens
Governor



Reflections at sunrise: Raleigh Meade



"Boone hitched himself closer. 'It's fair country up there, I reckon.'

"Summers looked at him, and his mouth made a small smile. 'Wild. Wild and purty, like a virgin woman... there's nothin' richer'n the upper Missouri. Or purtier. I seen the Great Falls and traveled Maria's River, dodgin' the Blackfeet, makin' cold camps and sometimes thinkin' my time was up, and all the time livin' wonderful, loose and free's ary animal. That's some that is.' "—*The Big Sky*



Cedar waxwing: Jan L. Wassink

“Overhead—you could almost say on all sides, too—
was the sky—deeper, bluer, bigger than he had ever
known.

“He breathed the air. He looked. He heard the ring of
silence. He felt somehow afloat in space. A shudder
shook him, the shudder of delight. He stretched his
arms wide and said aloud, ‘By George, I’m free!’ ”

—*The Blue Hen’s Chick*



Red fox seeking dinner: Brian Struble
Success! (right): Brian Struble



Pups at play: Jan L. Wassink



"And I remember nights on the plains when the wind whispered in the grass and you could reach a star and a wing fanned unseen overhead. A man felt wonderfully small with the miles rolling away and away from him into the last ranks of shadow, felt insignificant and fine, felt gathered into himself, a tiny unity against the great diversity, or felt dispersed, aflow with space, and was happy at that too."—*"The Rockies," Holiday magazine, July 1955, as reported in "Big Sky, Fair Land—The Environmental Essays of A.B. Guthrie, Jr.," edited by David Petersen*



Long-billed curlew: John McNeal



Great blue heron: Donald M. Jones



“ ‘I seen this country in its prime, Hig. Beaver in every stream. We found passes, we did, and followed trails only game knew....

“ ‘Where we set foot we might have been the first man there, and we breathed new air into our lungs, and all the time felt glad and free inside and never gave a thought about what was to come....’ ”—*Fair Land, Fair Land*



Bison battle: Michael H. Francis



Elk harem: Mike Logan



Yellowbelly marmot: Mike Logan

Bull moose: Pete & Alice Bengeyfield





Sage grouse: Pete & Alice Bengeyfield

"Man needs space. He needs elbow room. He needs to be surrounded, when he can, by majesty. By the majesty of the mountains. By the majesty of the rivers. By the majesty of wildlife. These things are part of our heritage and should be preserved."—*narration by A.B. Guthrie for "A.B. Guthrie, Jr.'s Vanishing Paradise," a half-hour film, PBS, 1984, as reported in "Big Sky, Fair Land—The Environmental Essays of A.B. Guthrie, Jr.," edited by David Petersen*



Pika: Mike Logan



Shorttail weasel: Jan L. Wassink

Bighorn rams: Bill Swanson





Mallard drake: Tim Egan

"West is another word for magic."—from a speech at the Montana Land Use Conference, Billings, November 10, 1973, as reported in "Big Sky, Fair Land—The Environmental Essays of A.B. Guthrie, Jr.," edited by David Petersen



Glacier National Park: Conrad Rowe



Alpine forget-me-nots: Phyllis Lefohn

"I love Montana. She is home to me. She is the center of my universe. I look west from my place, and the mountains are mine—as they are everyone's who has eyes to see. I no longer hunt, but the sight of a deer heartens me. I make friends with the blue grouse that visit my highland cabin. The great roll of distance delights my sight. I welcome the warm wind, the chinook, and welcome the daily hour of no wind, when not even aspen leaves stir."—*Montana Magazine* (March/April 1987)



Dueling mule deer: Brian Struble
Trophy buck: Michael H. Francis





Hungarian partridge: Dave Bennett

"A man hunting, feeling the whispers of old return about him, always could bag a brace or two of teal in the potholes of the coulee. Or, feeling older whispers, he could hunt for arrowheads, left or lost by untamed Indians who had driven buffalo to wreck or death down the leftward bluff and so made meat for winter. Or he could sit among the sandstone toadstools and listen to the wind that carved them."—*Arfive*



Canada geese: Dave McGee

End of the day: Craig Jourdonnais





Pericopid moth on blanketflower: Kristi DuBois

Dark larva of striped hawk moth: Charles B. Place, III



"He thought he had never seen the world before. He never had known distance until now. He had lived shut off by trees and hills and thought the world was a doll's world and distance just three hollers away and the sky no higher than a rifle shot."—*The Way West*

Bull elk: Donald M. Jones





Black bear cubs at play: Michael H. Francis





Pine marten: Dan & Cindy Hartman
Mountain lion: Mark Van Donsel

Least weasel with prey: Al De Mangelare

"Best to leave it as we found it. That's what I'm
thinkin.' Newlike but old."—*Fair Land, Fair Land*







Blackfeet girl: Joyce Clarke Turvey



Whoa!: Connie Wanner
Centennial Cattle Drive: Diane Ensign



"We counted the Savannah sparrow, the olive-backed thrush, a brown thrasher that forsook ancestral acres in favor of the West and staked a homestead in a blueberry bush. We rejoiced at seeing these and others, at knowing more about the world around us."—*The Blue Hen's Chick*



Red squirrel: Pete & Alice Bengeyfield
Swainson's thrush: Jan L. Wassink





White-tailed ptarmigan: Jan L. Wassink

Common tern: Keith Szafranski





Whitetail jackrabbit: Keith Szafranski

"Yet everything is not lost. The air around my old home is still clean and tonic; Ear Mountain still stands to the west, guarantee of eternity; and I imagine industrious boys still can find fish, and in the fall see a cottontail sitting. Boys can still dream their boys' dreams.

"I would preserve what remains of these old riches. I would save these encouragements, these fulfillments, these opportunities for the boys who will be me again."—*Montana Magazine* (March/April 1987)





"I told myself, thinking of Montana, that I liked my beauty grim. I liked it out of control, pristine, everlasting as man's work could never be."—*The Blue Hen's Chick*



Mountain goat: Milo Burcham
Below Granite Peak, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area: Tim Egan



Young great gray owl: Dan & Cindy Hartman



Robin: Pete & Alice Bengueyfield

"I buy the West. I buy it place and person, body and soul—if not with blind affection, still with an honest and enduring affection. It is home.

"...I mean the land of cactus and cattle, of sagebrush and sheep and wind-harried wheat, of snowy heights, or physical immensity and social microcosm, of history murmurous at the back door, of blizzard and chinook and coyotes crying to the night."—*"The Rockies," Holiday magazine, July 1955, as reported in "Big Sky, Fair Land—The Environmental Essays of A.B. Guthrie, Jr.," edited by David Petersen*



Northern pygmy-owl: John Ashley

“ ‘Good. Educate. Inform. Look to the years ahead. Make people think. Speak from knowledge and concern for the future. That’s not all you can do, but it’s one hell of a challenge, and you’ll have to fight.’ It struck Ben that he had been speaking with heat. He felt the heat go. ‘If only we can get people to love the earth.’ ”—*The Last Valley*



Carpet of beargrass, Glacier National Park: Diane Ensign



Western meadowrue: Maria Ash

"We had caught fish and seen the utter purity of sego lilies and the sprayed pride of beargrass and, in a burn, the flame of fireweed. High on a shelf a wild goat floated like a piece of cloud...."—*"The Rockies," Holiday magazine, July 1955, as reported in "Big Sky, Fair Land—The Environmental Essays of A.B. Guthrie, Jr.," edited by David Petersen*

